

William Oliver Allen to Andrew Jackson, January 10, 1810, from Correspondence of Andrew Jackson. Edited by John Spencer Bassett.

WILLIAM O. ALLEN TO JACKSON.1

1 In *Army Reg.* for 1813, p. 99, appears William O. Allen as a captain in the 24th Regt. Robert Butler, son of Jackson's friend. Col. Thomas Butler, and later his efficient adjutant-general in the New Orleans campaign, was a major in the same regiment.

St. Louis, January 10, 1810.

Dear Genl. , I received, your complimentary and friendly letter yesterday; and hasten to write by the return of the mail. The papers, you mention'd, are in my possession, but, as to their production, before the public, etc. I feel much doubt, perplexity, and great solicitude. You know, my dear Genl., that I am *poor*—that, I am a stranger *in this Country*—that my profession is my only means of support: And that the success of my practise, is to depend on the *Good Opinion of the World* . If then, I should leave this, my residence, and go on to the City, there to mix in the scenes of the contemplicated investigation, to encounter the machinations, of *Genl. W.*, and his powerful friends— *Cut myself loose from my increasing business*, exhaust my *money* , and spend twelve months of my *time* —What, I demand, would be the difficulties, the loses, and pivations, that I must necessarily forego? It is impossible for me to enumirate—most of them will Occur, to your strength of mind.

But Sir, if it should be asked, what is it that you would not do, for the benefit of your Country? I would unhesitatingly answer, *every thing* , that is within the *reach* of my *physical or mental powers*! No Sir! for so long as my nerves or mind would act, so long, would I *attempt* to surch for the interest of this beloved Union! Yet Sir , this question

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arrises, is this the *time* , and *that* , the *subject* , for which my prosperity is to be put afloat; and is it indispensible, that I should give my aid in that investigation? If it is, I will *obey the call of my Country* , when made by a constituted Authority.

Your information relative to the letters etc. in my possession is not circumstancially correct. but it is thus, There, once lived in Louisvill K.y, a French Gentlm. by the name of Michael Lacassange, a mercht. Mr. L. and my Brother-in-Law, were (I believe) connected in trade. I presume, that Mr. L. is the person alouded to, by Mr. Clark of Oleans, 2 in his communications to congress—Mr. C. states, that, “he was, late post-master at Louisville”—Mr. L. was post-master at that place. Mr. Lacassange died, some years since, and left my Brother-in-Law, Ro: K. Moore Esqr. one of his executors. Mr. M. transacted most of the business of Mr L's Estate. In consequence whereof Mr. L.'s papers came to the possion of Mr. M. Mr. Moore died in 1807, and my sister invited me to carriout, and superintend the business of her decd husbands Estate. I did so: And thus Mr. L's papers, were placed in my hands.

2 Daniel Clark, *Proofs of the Complicity of Gen. Wilkinson.*

As to the tendancy of those papers, I will not give an Opinion *now* . But surely, a *part* , of Genl W's history etc. may be collected from their perusal. If any impression has been made on your mind averse to the Honor of my Brother-in-Law's memory, it should be instantly removed, for from all of L.'s and his own papers it dose appear, that *he was always an excellent patriot* . Be careful, in your use of this letter, but, at the same time, consult the *interest of my Country*.

Take, and Keep a cop.